

DATE OF INFO.

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT 50 U.S.C. 31 AND 32, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Planning Section of the Soviet Petroleum Mission to Albania is preparing plans for obtaining a greater yield from the Kucova oil wells, improving drilling methods employed in prospecting new oil fields, and establishing a refinery industry.
2. According to the findings of the Mission, the present output of the Kucova wells covers only 25 percent of domestic requirements (agriculture, the army, industry and communications). Since the manufacture of synthetic gasoline will not solve this problem, efforts are being made to exploit new fields.
3. The two teams of Soviet survey experts under Vassiutin and Nikitenko are being reinforced by other Soviet specialists with a view to organizing a geophysical and geological service which will also act as a training center for oil technologists.
4. Agreement has been reached between the Albanian Government and the Mission in this connection, and the former ordered, on 20 January 1949, 27 complete drilling sets.
5. The question of refineries is no less urgent. At present Albanian crude petroleum, like that from Rumania and Hungary, is processed by very primitive means, yielding poor quality gasoline and oil of high paraffin content.
6. In November 1948 Albania obtained from the Soviet Union a quantity of sulphuric acid and other chemicals necessary for refining purposes, but they are of little use without the necessary equipment.
7. The Albanian Government has decided to obtain this equipment and to recruit labor for the construction of two refineries, contingent on Soviet credits (in the belief that the Soviet Union's primary interest in Albania is oil and that she will accordingly invest the necessary capital).
8. Kurakin, the Soviet engineer at Kucova, has set up a winter training center for oil technologists. The first course started on 25 January 1949 and is being attended by 53 workmen-pupils from the oil industry.

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